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111.(New) An image processing defining apparatus, comprising:
a display unit which displays a video image inputted from a camera on a screen thereof;
an area designating unit which designates an area of the video image on the screen displayed by the display unit; and
a process defining unit which defines an operation process to be executed when an event is executed at the area designated by the area designating unit.

REMARKS

The above amendments and the following remarks are for entry and consideration in the present application.

ENTRY OF PREVIOUSLY-FILED OR UNENTERED PAPERS/AMENDMENTS

Entry of all previously-filed papers/Amendments unentered in the present application is respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Upon entry of the first Preliminary Amendment filed on 27 August 2001 in the present application, Claims 32-38, 44 and 52-102 are pending for consideration herein. Unrelated to any prior art rejection from any parent application, Claims 32-38, 44 and 52-102 have been cancelled, and new Claims 103-111 have been added in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, upon entry of this Second Preliminary Amendment, Claims 103-111 are pending for consideration and search in the present application.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

Applicant claims the benefit of priority under 35 USC §119 based on JP 03-074927 filed 8 April 1991, JP 03-238277 filed 18 September 1991, and PCT/JP92/00434 filed 8 April 1992, and appropriate priority papers therefor were submitted in ancestor application Serial No. 07/960,442. Applicant respectfully requests written acknowledgment and confirmation of the perfection of Applicant's claim for foreign priority in the present application.

SECOND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Submitted concurrently herewith is a Second Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 and a Japanese Patent Office Action citing references submitted for entry in the above-identified application. Applicant respectfully requests that the Form PTO-1449 be returned bearing the Examiner's initials to indicate entry and consideration of the information listed thereon.

SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO EARLIER-FILED APPLICATIONS

As an application in which the benefits of an earlier application are desired must contain a specific reference to any earlier-filed applications in the first sentence of the specification, the specification has herein been amended to incorporate such specific reference to ancestor applications.

SUPPORT FOR SUBSTITUTE/ADDED CLAIMS

To preclude any previous 35 USC rejections with respect to substitute/added (*i.e.*, clarified and refocused) Claims 103-111, Applicant submits the following.

All descriptions of Applicant's disclosed and claimed invention, and all descriptions and rebuttal arguments regarding the applied prior art, as previously submitted by Applicant in any form in this or any ancestor application, are repeated

and incorporated herein by reference. Further, all Office Action statements regarding the prior art rejections made in ancestor applications are respectfully traversed. As additional arguments, Applicant respectfully submits the following.

In order to properly support a §102 anticipatory-type rejection, any art of record must disclose each and every limitation of any rejected claim. The art of record does not support a §102 anticipatory-type rejection because, at minimum, such art does not disclose (or suggest) the following discussed limitations of Applicant's claims.

In addition to the foregoing, the following additional remarks from Applicant's foreign representative are also submitted in support of traversal of the rejection and patentability of Applicant's claims.

As to the differences from Claims 103, 107 and submitted art of record, ones of the art of record relate to the technique of relating a subject displayed on a screen to a device to be monitored. More particularly, one art reference discloses such a technique that a diagram showing the device is displayed on a screen, and when a particular device within the diagram is designated, the monitored video image of the designated device is displayed. Another reference discloses such a technique that character information (for example, kitchen) displayed on the screen is designed thereby to operate a device to be monitored within the kitchen.

In each of such art references, it is necessary to designate a subject displayed on the screen in order to access the device to be monitored, and when a subject displayed on the screen corresponding to the device to be monitored extends beyond the screen frame, an operator is required to switch a screen so as to display the portion.

On the other hand, the image searching method claimed in Claims 103, 107 of the present invention relates to the technique of searching a video image by using a computer. None of the art references discloses such a technique of searching a video image.

Further, according to the present invention claimed in Claims 103, 107, the computer stores, in correspondence with a camera in, subject data in an area capable of being imaged by the camera for imaging the video image. Such a feature of the present invention is neither taught nor suggested in any of the art references.

Furthermore, the present invention claimed in Claims 103, 107 is characterized by a search key designating step (unit) of designating a search key by inputting a text or a figure; and a video image searching step (unit) of searching a video image on which a subject fitting to the text or the figure designated by the search key designating step is displayed.

According to such a configuration of the present invention, a video image displaying a desired subject can be search easily even in a case of applying the present invention to a system such as a large-scaled plant system having a large number of devices to be monitored.

That is, the present invention claimed in Claims 103, 107 provides a means displaying a monitored video image of a device to be monitored, which does not correspond to a subject displayed on a screen, by merely inputting a name, etc. of the device to be monitored, thereby to eliminate such a troublesome processing of searching a desired subject by manually switching screens. Such feature and technical effect of the present invention are not taught in any of the cited art references and cannot be obtained therefrom.

As to the difference from Claims 104, 109 and the cited art reference, such reference discloses a method of synthesizing a graphics of the imaging (photographing) direction of a camera on a video image photographed by the camera, but the graphics of the imaging direction of the camera is displayed irrespective to a photographed subject. That is, in the art reference, none of the displayed position or the displayed contents depends on the photographed subject.

In contrast, according to the present invention claimed in Claims 104, 109, a graphics is synthesized on a photographed subject within a screen, and so the displayed position and displayed shape of the graphics thus synthesized necessarily depend on the displayed position and displayed shape of the photographed subject having been searched. Such a graphics synthesizing method or apparatus is not taught or suggested in the art reference.

Turning next to the difference from Claims 110, 11 and the cited art reference, although the Examiner states that such art reference discloses that an area of an image is designated to define "a processing," Applicant considers that the reference merely discloses a means for designating an area of an image on a screen to set a parameter (degree of risk) for the area.

In contrast, the present invention claimed in Claims 110, 111 discloses a video image displaying step (unit) of displaying a video image inputted from a camera on a screen of a display; an area designating step (unit) of designating an area of the video image on the screen displayed by the video image displaying step (unit); and a process defining step (unit) of defining an operation process to be executed when an event is executed at the area designed by the area designating step (unit). That is, in the present invention, when a user performs an operation with

respect to the designated area, the operation process to be executed is defined in correspondence with the operation contents. Thus, the present invention is quite difference from the art reference in which parameter (degree of risk) is merely set for the designated area.

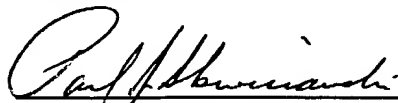
As a result of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the art of record would not support a §102 anticipatory-type rejection or a §103 obviousness-type rejection of Applicant's claims. Accordingly, express written allowance of all of the substitute/added claims are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that this Second Preliminary Amendment is timely and should be entered, and that the application is now in condition for allowance.

No additional fees are required for the submission of this Second Preliminary Amendment. However, if any fees are actually proper for the filing of this paper, please charge same to ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (as Order No. 500.31754CX2), and please credit any overpayment or excess fees thereto.

Respectfully submitted,



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